

To: Wagner, Kenneth[wagner.kenneth@epa.gov]; Albores, Richard[Albores.Richard@epa.gov]
Cc: Minoli, Kevin[Minoli.Kevin@epa.gov]; Dolph, Becky[Dolph.Becky@epa.gov]; Blake, Wendy[Blake.Wendy@epa.gov]; Packard, Elise[Packard.Elise@epa.gov]; Moser, Rebecca[Moser.Rebecca@EPA.GOV]; Gottesman, Larry[Gottesman.Larry@epa.gov]
From: Fine, Steven
Sent: Thur 6/15/2017 12:55:20 AM
Subject: RE: FOIA Discussion Follow Up

Ken,

On behalf of the joint OGC and OEI group, we'd like to suggest that as a next step we schedule a high level briefing for you. This could cover the FOIA landscape, current EPA approaches, challenges, and potential future directions—leaving some time for discussion. That would provide a basis for further discussion, as appropriate. The briefing could include a small number of participants from OEI, OGC, and R6 (OEI's lead region. OEI is the home of the EPA's National FOIA Office). We're also open to other options for how to proceed.

Feedback?

Thanks.

Steve

From: Wagner, Kenneth
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 7:43 AM
To: Albores, Richard <Albores.Richard@epa.gov>
Cc: Minoli, Kevin <Minoli.Kevin@epa.gov>; Dolph, Becky <Dolph.Becky@epa.gov>; Fine, Steven <fine.steven@epa.gov>; Blake, Wendy <Blake.Wendy@epa.gov>; Packard, Elise <Packard.Elise@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: FOIA Discussion Follow Up

Richard:

Thanks to you and Kevin for the kind invite. Unfortunately, I will be participating in the R5 "All States" Commissioners' meetings in Chicago. As I mentioned, I really cannot speak to the FOIA process at HQ, but I have now seen 10 very different processes at the Regions and heard varying degrees of complaints about the amount of time these requests take. From my observations, it is problematic when these requests take a significant amount of time away from the media program personnel that could be better used pursuing the business of environmental protection. I would very much like to better understand the coordination between HQ and the Regions and then begin a conversation about how to make these responses more consistent and avoid duplication of work.

Thanks again for your willingness to engage on this important topic.

Ken

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On Jun 12, 2017, at 4:54 PM, Albores, Richard <Albores.Richard@epa.gov> wrote:

Ken:

It was good to speak with you this afternoon as you made your way to the airport for Region 5. I informed Kevin of your desire to foster a conversation on identifying efficiencies and consistencies in the FOIA practice across the agency, and he is keen to do that. In fact, he suggested that we try to begin that conversation this Wednesday at 4pm

during a monthly OGC/Regional Counsel video-teleconference we regularly hold.

- **Let me know if that would/could work for you** (if you are still in R5, you could sit in with the Regional Counsel there, or if back in DC, join us in 4045 William Jefferson Clinton), and we will add it to the agenda.

We also want you to be aware that we have recently proposed reforms for FOIA, eDiscovery, and other information management for further discussion with the Agency's senior management. We would be happy to brief you on those proposals as well.

Feel free to call or email if you have questions/concerns.

Thanks,

R

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**RICHARD L. ALBORES**

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